

Arlington Heights, IL - U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk met with local mayors, police and fire chiefs to present a \$200,000 federal grant he secured from the Department of Justice will help speed the dispatch of police and ambulances serving people living in the suburbs.

The Northwest Central Dispatch Center will use the federal grant to upgrade its '911' call center serving the people of Arlington Heights, Buffalo Grove, Elk Grove Village, Hoffman Estates, Mount Prospect, Palatine, Prospect Heights and Streamwood.

"Our Dispatch Center will use this federal grant to upgrade the speed and reliability of data sent directly to police and firemen responding to 911 emergencies" said Congressman Kirk who presented the Center's Executive Director, Cindy Barbera-Brelle, with a \$200,000 federal check. "Suburban fire and police officers will have state-of-the-art equipment. This new gear ensures that we respond to 911 emergency calls with greater speed and accuracy."

Congressman Kirk, a member of the powerful Appropriations Committee, secured the grant through the Department of Justice's COPS Law Enforcement Technology Program. The new gear will allow first responders to quickly receive critical information like homeowner names, background information and license plate data -- all transmitted directly to their vehicles via the 911 emergency center. The communication gear currently mounted in emergency vehicles is over 10-years-old and is slower than the equipment funded by the federal grant.

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Kirk was joined by Arlington Heights Mayor, Arlene Mulder, Arlington Heights Village Manager, Bill Dixon, Arlington Heights Police Chief, Jerry Mourning, Arlington Heights Fire Chief, Glen Ericson, Hoffman Estates Mayor, William Mcleod, Hoffman Estates Village Manager, Jim Norris, Hoffman Estates Police Chief, Clint Herdegen, Buffalo Grove Village Manager, Bill Balling, Buffalo Grove Fire Chief, Tim Sashko, Buffalo Grove Deputy Fire Chief, Dan Pearson, and Prospect Heights Village Manager, Matt Zimmerman.

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